(v) to propose a new legislative framework for taxation of Government properties at Central, State and Local levels as also to define the legislative domains of the various levels of Government.

Non-payment of taxes on Central Government assets

1987. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the problems being faced by the local bodies arising out of non-payment of taxes on Central Government assets and properties;

(b) whether Government are aware that the building plans of the Central Government establishments are not submitted to the local bodies for sanction; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) As per Article 285(1) of the Constitution, the properties of the Union Shall, save in so far as Parliament may by law, otherwise provide, be exempt from all taxes imposed by a State or by any authority within a State. However, such properties are subject to payment of service charges to Urban Local Bodies for the services rendered by the latter to former. This ranges from 33-1/3% to 75% of the tax payable in respect of private properties. In view of this, Central Government properteis are paying the service charges as per the prevalent instructions.

(b) and (c) Plans of all building constructed by Central Public Works Department (CPWD) are submitted to local bodies for obtaining their approval wherever such approval is essentially required.

Pending cases of DDA in courts

†1988. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases related to Delhi Development Authority to plead in these cases;

(b) if so, the number of advocates appointed by the Delhi Development Authority to plead in these cases;

(c) the qualifications set for the appointment of these advocates; and

(d) the number of cases pleaded by each of these advocates from the year 2000 to December, 2002 and number of cases wherein the decision was in favour of Delhi Development Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that there are 101 advocates on their panel, to plead in these cases before Supreme Court, High Court, District Courts, various Commissions, Fora, Tribunals and Arbitrators, etc. The advocates are empanelled after considering their qualifications, experience and nature of cases, handled by them.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gold Dak Khana crossing dangerous for pedestrians

1989. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that round about of Gold Dak Khana (New Delhi Post Office) in the heart of New Delhi, is the most dangerous point for pedestrians' crossing;

(b) whether grievances of the public in this regard were reflected in the Action Line of the Hindustan Times, dated the 21st November, 2002; and

(c) if so, the aciton taken by the concerned authorities to ensure safety of pedestrians visiting the Post Office?